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H. CON. RES. 19

Affirming the sense of Congress regarding the obligation of the United States to improve the lives of the 36,950,000 Americans living in poverty and the 15,928,000 of those who live in extreme poverty.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2007

Ms. LEE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Affirming the sense of Congress regarding the obligation of the United States to improve the lives of the 36,950,000 Americans living in poverty and the 15,928,000 of those who live in extreme poverty.

Whereas 8.7 percent of whites, 9.8 percent of Asian-Americans, 21.9 percent of Latinos, and 24.7 percent of African-Americans in lived in poverty in the United States in 2004;

Whereas the poverty rate is highest in rural counties, with 14.5 percent of the population poor;

Whereas the top 5 most impoverished States according to the Census Bureau are Mississippi, New Mexico, West Virginia, Louisiana, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas extreme poverty is defined as people with income of less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the poverty level;

Whereas 12,896,000 children in the United States under the age of 18 lived in poverty in 2005, and the number of children living in extreme poverty rose by 87,000 from 2004–2005;

Whereas, between 2004 and 2005, the real median earnings for female full-time, full-year workers declined by 1.3 percent and for male full-time, full-year workers declined by 1.8 percent;

Whereas, in 2005, an estimated 33 percent of the homeless population are children and an estimated 1,350,000 children will experience homelessness in a year;

Whereas homeless children face more barriers to school enrollment and attendance due to a lack of available transportation, residency requirements, inability to obtain previous school records, and a lack of clothing and school supplies;

Whereas homeless children are in fair or poor health condition twice as often as other children and have higher rates of asthma, ear infections, stomach problems, and speech problems;

Whereas the number of uninsured Americans rose to 46,577,000 in 2005, 1,272,000 more than in the previous year, and the number of Americans without health insurance has risen for 4 consecutive years;

Whereas the Census Bureau found that more than 25 percent of households with an income of less than \$25,000 did not have health insurance in 2005, whereas 91 percent of households with incomes of \$75,000 or more had health insurance;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture has found that, in 2005, 35,100,000 people lived in households experiencing food insecurity, meaning that they did not have adequate access to enough food to meet basic dietary needs to all times due to a lack of financial resources;

Whereas the Census Bureau survey on food security has found those at greatest risk of being hungry live in households that are headed by a single woman, a Latino or African-American, or with income below the poverty line;

Whereas households with children experience food insecurity at more than double the rate for households without children;

Whereas the Department of Labor records the unemployment level at the third quarter of 2006 as being 4.1 percent for whites, 9.2 percent for African-Americans and 5.3 percent for Latinos; and

Whereas on January 20, 2001, President Bush stated “In the quiet of American conscience, we know that deep, persistent poverty is unworthy of our nation’s promise. Where there is suffering, there is duty. Americans in need are not strangers, they are citizens, not problems, but priorities. And all of us are diminished when any are hopeless. And I can pledge our nation to a goal: When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*

2 *concurring*), That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the United States has an obligation to im-

4 prove the lives of the 36,950,000 Americans living in

1 poverty and the 15,928,000 of those who live in ex-
2 treme poverty; and

3 (2) the President should immediately present to
4 Congress a comprehensive plan to eradicate poverty
5 by 2015.

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